

J. Blaine Bonham, Jr.

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After a 36-year career as a non-profit management professional and leader in environmental urban horticulture, Blaine Bonham has transferred his experience and enthusiasm to a love for photography and writing. His past includes extensive experience in program and organizational development, fund-raising, public speaking, and strategic planning. A committed volunteer, he continues to engage with service and arts organizations on boards in various volunteer capacities.

CAREER

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

1974-2010

A nationally and internationally awarded key influencer for environmental strength, sustainability, initiative, and innovation.

Developed Philadelphia Green, the largest and most comprehensive non-profit sector urban greening program in the United States. Philadelphia Green utilized community gardens, urban reforestation, urban park revitalization and more with horticulture as community redevelopment tools, partnering with community development organizations to revitalize neighborhoods.

Executive Vice President

1999-2010

- Managed Philadelphia Green with an annual budget of \$10 million, a staff of 50, and a public and private fund subscription of \$25 million
- Developed consulting program with America the Beautiful encouraging greening in small to medium size cities around the country
- Served as lead professional for Public Broadcasting System's *Edens: Lost and Found* positioning Philadelphia as the major feature in a four-part mini-series on urban revitalization. Featured in *Philadelphia: The Holy Experiment* segment
- Headed Mayor John F. Street's Neighborhood Transformation Team 2000-2001

- Developed partnerships with City of Philadelphia agencies piloting vacant land improvement in low-income neighborhoods; 1988-1992

Other positions held in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Executive Director, Philadelphia Green

Director, Philadelphia Green

Director, Community Education

Many additional notable achievements from 1974—2010 in the area of urban redevelopment available on request.

Philadelphia National Bank

Portfolio Analyst 1969-1974

Tyrone Public School District

Teacher 1968-69

PUBLICATIONS AND MAJOR PRESENTATIONS

Author

Turning Blue in Morocco's Western Sahara

Article published March, 2019

www.TravelMag.co.uk

Author

Sailing Over the Plains of Myanmar's Plains of Bagan, Part I

Article published March, 2019

www.pennsvillage.com

Author

Blaine Bonham

Grant-winning bio to Fulbright Program award for the 2019 Morocco calendar

Author

Sailing Over Myanmar's Plains of Bagan

Article published January, 2019

www.intheknowtraveler.com

Author

Sarajevo—Where the 20th Century Began and Ended

Article published November, 2018

www.travelthruhistory.com

Author

Articles for *Green Scene*, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's official magazine

Co-author with Gerri Spilka

Old Cities/Green Cities, an American Planning Association Planning Advisory Service Report, 2002

PUBLISHER, PHOTOGRAPHER, AND DESIGNER

Calendar series of own photographs

2021 *Spaces and Places*; 20 years of travel

2020 *Southern Spain and Western National Parks*

2019 *Morocco*

2018 *Romania and Bulgaria*

2017 *Around the World*

2016 *Asia*

2016 *Cuba*

2015 *San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato, Mexico*

2014 *Italy and Europe*

2013 *Eye Candy*

2012 *India and Sri Lanka*

2011 *Central Europe*

2010 *Southeast Asia*

CONSULTING AUTHORITY

SPEAKER, 1980—2010

Experienced, frequent, national speaker and presenter at conferences in all major US cities

2003

Featured in *Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* cover story, *Flower Power – Growth Factor*

2002

Co-author with Gerri Spilka

Old Cities/Green Cities, an American Planning Association Planning Advisory Service Report

1997

Countryside Institute team member consulting in exurban London, England, on re-use and redevelopment of local waterways and contiguous lands

2000

Lecturer, University of Delhi, India, on vacant land re-use policies in Philadelphia and other major American cities

1999

Featured authority in *Philadelphia Inquirer Home & Design* lead article, *Changing the City's Colors*

1983

Featured in *National Geographic* article on urban community greening movement in American cities

1982

Wall Street Journal program feature for article *To Survive Hard Times: More City Dwellers Plant Vegetable Gardens Amid Tenements*

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Civic Leadership Award, 2013
Fairmount Park Conservancy

Lifetime Achievement Award, 2010
Community Development Organizations

Open Space Achievement Award, 2010
Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Model Program Award for PHS' Philadelphia Green Program, 2009
Garden Club of America

Vacant Land Revitalization Work 2001 Award
GreenSpace Alliance

Community Service Award, 1989
Temple University Pan African Studies

Humanitarian Award, 1980
Chapel of the Four Chaplains

FORMAL EDUCATION

1991

Advanced Special Degree in Environmental Studies
Loeb Fellowship, Harvard University Graduate School of Design

1977

Associate Degree in Horticulture
Temple University

1971-1973

Pursued Masters level program in Business Administration
Temple University

1968

Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science
Minor studies in Business Administration
Penn State University

VOLUNTEERISM

2019—present

Historic Lewes Byway Committee member

2018—present

John Bartram Association board member

2017—present

Gunnar Montana Productions board member; serving as Chair

2011—2017

Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus board member and Development Chair

2008—2014

Organization and Management Group, Inc., board member 2008-2014, and Chair

2005—2011

Norris Square Neighborhood Project board member and Chair

1998—2008

GreenSpace Alliance board member and Chair

1990—1996

Energy Coordinating Agency board member

1986—1994

Neighborhood Gardens Association (now Trust) founder, board member, Chair

1981—1989

American Community Gardening Association founder, board member

INTERESTS

Photography and travel writing; website <https://blainebonham.com>

Travel and street photography

Artist Conference Network, Philadelphia One Chapter, lead coordinator

Photographic Society of Philadelphia, member

Professional Photographers of America, member

The Plastic Club, member

Philadelphia Sketch Club, member

Gardener; created and maintained six personal ornamental gardens over 40 years

Avid international traveler to many regions of India, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and western and central Europe

Big mystery genre reader